



Padre Island National Seashore SandDollar



Friday, August 20, 2004

Superintendent

In the continuous effort to promote enhanced communications here at PAIS, I want to let everyone know of one more communication effort. In addition to changes made to the Sand Dollar, development of PAIS Today, and increased use of the employee suggestion box, there will soon be the "electronic blues." Posted in a folder on the parks shared drive, will be most of the signed external correspondence that is distributed from my office. My hope is that the blues will enhance knowledge and understanding of park business.

In addition to the electronic blues, we are developing a series of park Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) to provide guidance in decision making and answer procedural questions that may arise. Development of a complete set of SOP's will take several months, and is never truly complete since SOP's, by purpose, are adaptive and responsive to changing circumstances. Soon to be posted in a folder on the parks shared drive will be the park SOP's.

I am committed that our collective work sites will be as safe as possible. In part, this means we all deserve a work site that is free from harassment in any form. Every employee of Padre Island National Seashore must be aware that sexual harassment,

or any action that demeans the dignity of others, will not be tolerated. We all have a responsibility to maintain a work environment that is free from all forms of harassment.

Take care of this place and each other, everything else will fall into place.

Stay safe!

Colin

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 8/23	– In the Park; Out of the Park
Tuesday, 8/24	– In the Park; Out of the Park
Wed., 8/25	– In the Park; Out of the Park
Thurs., 8/26	– In the Park; In at Noon
Friday, 8/27	– In the Park

Safety Notes--

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.
Make it a safe day.

Employees Association News -

Administration

Kaci Messenger first day on the job will be Sunday, August 22.

Welcome aboard Kaci!!

FEGLI Open Season Begins in September

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) will be from September 1 through September 30, 2004. The program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary

plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new federal employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverage available are not changing. During the open season, federal and postal employees will be able to enroll in the program or increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

Changes Are Coming to the TSP Loan Program

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has announced that effective July 1, 2004; three changes will be made to the TSP loan program. They are: (1) A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan; (2) Two general purpose loans at the same time will no longer be permitted (however, one can have both a general purpose and a residential loan); and (3) Upon paying off a TSP loan, the TSP participant will not be eligible to apply for another loan of the same type for 60 days.

UNIFORMS

Within the next 2 1/2 weeks, Cargo Pants and Convertible trousers will appear on the uniform website. Employees will be able to order these items, but they will not be physically in stock with VF Solutions. It may take about 2 months before employees will be able to receive these items. We are putting them on the website now so they can order them before the ordering period ends on August 21st. I would not recommend that seasonal employees order these items yet. They are not in stock. It will take at least 2 months before these items will be shipped out to employees.

Last Day to Order Uniforms is August 21! Hurry! Time is Running Out!

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

The trailer will be used on August 25, 31 and Sept. 2 for TEL training.

New Courses:

4 new TEL courses:

August 30th
August 31st

You Should Know: Federal Employees Group Life Insurance
Harpers Ferry Center - What We Can Do For You

Sep 15th & 16th

You Should Hear What They Are Missing: Hearing Loss Prevention Program

Sep 16th

Preventing Hearing Loss - Is Sounds Good To Me

FYI - there are several courses in the developmental phase and possible dates:

Sept 10th

DOI Ethics (for Ethics Officers in NPS)

Sept 22nd

Position Management

Sept 30th

An Emerging Leaders Consortium Module

Oct 21st

DOI Achieving Our Mission Through Management Excellence

NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Managing for Safety Excellence Is The Right Thing to Do!	08/17/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Managing for Safety Excellence Is The Right Thing to Do!	08/17/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Everyone Can Make a Difference!	08/25/2004	Wednesday	10:00-12:00
NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Everyone Can Make a Difference!	08/25/2004	Wednesday	2:00-4:00
Retirement Planning for New Employees	08/26/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
You Should Know: Federal Employees Group Life Insurance	08/30/2004	Monday	1:00-3:00
Harpers Ferry Center - What We Can Do For You	08/31/2004	Tuesday	2:00-3:00
Building a Partnership Workplace	09/02/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00
DOI Ethics - Financial Disclosures	09/08/2004	Wednesday	1:00-3:00
From Hugger to Harasser: The True Story Behind Sexual Harassment	09/09/2004	Thursday	10:00-12:00
Communication: The Key to Performance Management	09/09/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	09/13/2004	Monday	2:00-4:00
You Should Hear What They Are Missing: Hearing Loss Prevention Program (attendance is required for both days)	9/15/2004	Wednesday	1:00-4:00
	9/16/2004	Thursday	1:00-2:30
Preventing Hearing Loss - It Sounds Good To Me	09/16/2004	Thursday	3:00-4:30
Managing Performance	09/21/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Position Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know	09/21/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
Taking the Grief Out of Administrative Grievances	09/23/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:30
IDP Interpretive Media Development (Module 311)	09/28/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 1): Tools for Effective Partnering	11/03/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	11/04/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00

Facility Management

A technician from OPW, the fuel system vendor, is working with Glenda to resolve the software problems. It is hoped that by next week, the new system will be fully operational.

IHS Construction came to the park recently to see about the BIB project. They will be formulating an estimate of the project's cost prior to bidding.

Interpretation

Museum Catalog records are being reviewed and updated and the collection is being inventoried. The random sample of controlled properties has been completed.

Phil has found out that we have the LARGEST collection of reales (gold coins) in the entire Park Service. We have about 143. **WOW!** Volunteer uniform are being inventoried and ordered.

The staff at the VC is developing ways of spending grant money that was earned for 4x4 clean-ups.

Juan is expected to be back on Monday, August 23, 2004.

Protection

Resources Management

Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

Rachel Blair will be out of the Office from Thursday, August 26 through Wednesday, September 1. Donna will be on Leave from Monday, August 30, through Thursday, September 2. Cynthia Rubio will be acting Chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery during Donna's absence.

Craig Cowan will start work on an intermittent season appointment on Monday, August 30 and will work full time through the month of September. Shara Kilarski will go on intermittent status beginning Sunday, September 5 with her last day at work on full time status on Friday, September 3.

Patrols to the Mansfield Channel are being conducted once per day and will continue through the end of September. Linda Morehead is patrolling on Sundays through Wednesdays and Volunteers on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Last hatchlings released for 2004:

On Thursday morning (August 19), 14 green turtle hatchlings were released from clutch 43. At about 8:00 that evening, another 91 were

released from his clutch. Thus, a total of 105 eggs hatched and the hatchlings were released, for an overall hatchling success of 92.9% for the 113 eggs.

Overall, 2,608 Kemp's ridley, 89 loggerhead, and 105 green turtle hatchlings were released at the National Seashore this year. We held 14 hatchling releases that were open to the public and about 2,300 visitors attended. We have no more eggs in the incubation facility and this no more public releases for the year. Thanks for making this the best year yet for our nesting and release program.